

CLAIMS

1. A temperature control device for a disk drive unit, the temperature control device comprising:
  - 5 a housing for connection to a carrier for a disk drive unit;  
an air flow generator arranged in the housing for providing a flow of air to a disk drive unit in a connected carrier; and,  
an air flow control device arranged at the side of the air flow generator and selectively configurable to control the air flow path whereby the temperature of air  
10 flowing to the disk drive unit can be controlled.
2. A temperature control device according to claim 1, comprising at least two apertures in a side of the housing for providing possible air flow paths.
- 15 3. A temperature control device according to claim 2, comprising a linearly movable valve to control a degree of opening of the apertures.
4. A temperature control device according to claim 3, comprising a rack and pinion mechanism to operate the linearly movable valve.  
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5. A temperature control device according to any of claims 2 to 4, comprising a heat exchanger in communication with the apertures arranged to selectively receive and cool at least a portion of the air from a said disk drive unit thereby to provide chilled air, wherein the air flow control device is selectively operable to  
25 cause air to recirculate directly across a said disk drive unit, or to cause at least a portion of the air that has passed over a said disk drive unit to pass through the heat exchanger.
6. A temperature control device according to claim 5, wherein the first and  
30 second apertures are capable of being open or closed in a desired proportion such that air provided to a said disk drive unit is a mixture of directly recirculated air and air from the heat exchanger.

7. A temperature control device according to any preceding claim,  
comprising a selectively operable heater in the air flow path to a said disk drive  
5 unit for selectively heating air prior to said air flowing across a said disk drive  
unit.

8. A temperature control device according to any preceding claim, wherein  
the air flow generator is a DC blower or a radial fan.

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9. Disk drive unit test apparatus for receiving a plurality of disk drive units,  
the test apparatus comprising:

a plurality of temperature control devices according to any of claims 1 to 8;

15 and,

a plurality of carriers, each for connection to a respective one of the  
temperature control devices and each for receiving a respective disk drive unit.

20 10. A method of testing one or more disk drive units, wherein the temperature  
of each of the one or more disk drive units is independently controlled during  
testing of the disk drive units, the temperature being controlled using a  
temperature control device according to any of claims 1 to 8.

25 11. A method of operating one or more disk drive units, wherein the  
temperature of each of the one or more disk drive units is independently  
controlled during operation of the disk drive units, the temperature being  
controlled using a temperature control device according to any of claims 1 to 8.